

Message Text

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71-61

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 ORM-02 DHA-02 SCA-01 AID-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5527

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

UNCLAS USUN 0272

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, AO, SF, WAS

SUBJ: ANGOLAN REFUGEES IN SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF JANUARY 23 LETTER FROM SOUTH
AFRICAN PERM REP TO SYG, CONCERNING ANGOLAN REFUGEES.
TEXT OF LETTER HAS BEEN CIRCULATED AS SECURITY COUNCIL
DOCUMENT S/11938.

QUOTE:

S/11938

LETTER DATED 22 JANUARY 1976 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL
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I HAVE THE HONOUR TO ATTACH THE TEXT OF A LETTER ADDRESSED TO YOU ON 22 JANUARY 1976 BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DR. THE HONOURABLE H. MULLER, ON THE QUESTION OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES.

I SHOULD BE GLAD IF THIS LETTER COULD BE ISSUED AS A DOCUMENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

(SIGNED) R. F. BOTHA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

ANNEX

LETTER DATED 22 JANUARY 1976 FROM THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF SOUTH AFRICA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

ON 12 SEPTEMBER 1975, I INFORMED YOUR EXCELLENCY OF THE SERIOUS SITUATION NECESSITATING THE RECEPTION, CARE AND REPATRIATION OF ALMOST 10,000 REFUGEES, WHO, ON THAT DATE, HAD ALREADY CROSSED INTO SOUTH WEST AFRICA FROM ANGOLA. AT A SUBSEQUENT STAGE, AS MANY AS 13,000 REFUGEES FROM ANGOLA WERE TAKEN CARE OF BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT BEFORE MANY OF THEM COULD BE REPATRIATED TO PORTUGAL. DURING THE PAST FIVE MONTHS, THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS SPENT MORE THAN \$US 5 MILLION ON MAINTAINING THE VARIOUS REFUGEE CAMPS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND SOUTH WEST AFRICA AND ON SUPPLYING FOOD, MEDICAL SERVICES, TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER PROVISIONS TO THE REFUGEES. AT THE PRESENT TIME, SOUTH AFRICA STILL PROVIDES FOOD, MEDICAL SERVICES AND OTHER NECESSITIES TO MORE THAN 2,800 REFUGEES AT THREE LOCATIONS NEAR THE ANGOLA-SOUTH WEST AFRICA BORDER.

IN THE PAST WEEK, SOME 2,200 REFUGEES SOUGHT ENTRY INTO SOUTH WEST AFRICA BY WAY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN POST OF WALVIS BAY. SO FAR, 1,000 OF THESE REFUGEES HAVE DIS-EMBARKEED AT WALVIS BAY AND ARE NOW BEING CARED FOR BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES. APART FROM SUPPLYING THE NECESSARY SERVICES TO THE REFUGEES AND ASSISTING THEM IN VARIOUS OTHER WAYS, THE SOUTH AFRICAN HEALTH AUTHORITIES ALSO HAD TO TAKE STEPS TO PREVENT THE OUTBREAK OF HEALTH

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HAZARDS. WHEN I RAISED THIS MATTER WITH YOUR EXCELLENCY IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, YOU RESPONDED THAT "SINCE THIS IS A MATTER WHICH FALLS WITHIN THE IMMEDIATE COMPETENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL, I HAVE ARRANGED TO BRING THE CONTENTS OF YOUR COMMUNICATION TO ITS ATTENTION".

THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT HAS UNDERTAKEN TO REPATRIATE ALL PORTUGUESE CITIZENS AMONG THE REFUGEES, BUT THIS

STILL LEAVES LARGE NUMBERS WHO ARE NOT CITIZENS OF PORTUGAL.

MY GOVERNMENT WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS CONCERN AT THE PLIGHT
OF THOSE REMAINING REFUGEES AND TO ASK YOUR EXCELLENCY
TO REQUEST THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
REFUGEES TO ASSIST IN RESOLVING THIS PROBLEM.

(SIGNED) H. MULLER
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
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